

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06839 230944Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 L-03 SS-15 EB-08
MCE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /070 W
-----083055 231819Z /47

R 230932Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7395
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
GHQJAF AMMAN JORDAN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 06839

SECSTATE FOR NEA/ARN/PM-SAS, SECDEF FOR ASD: ISA,
GHQJAF FOR COURIER/P&O, USCINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SACM

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, JO
SUBJ: CHANGE TO REQUEST FOR LOA: WHITE PHOSPHOROUS

REF: A. STATE 203323, DTG 111349Z AUG 78 (C)
- B. AMEMBASSY AMMAN 06053, DTG 191108Z
- JUL 78 (C)

1. (C) REF A REQUESTED FULLER JUSTIFICATION FOR
INCREASE IN JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR WHITE PHOSPHOROUS
AMMUNITION.

2. (C) AS WAS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR, REF B,
THE JORDAN ARAB ARMY (JAA), IN THEIR CURRENT FIVE
YEAR MODERNIZATION PLAN, IS CONVERTING TWO INFANTRY
DIVISIONS TO MECHANIZED DIVISIONS. IN ADDITION,
JAA IS UP-GUNNING AND MODERNIZING THEIR ARTILLERY
TO ELIMINATE NEARLY ALL TOWED WEAPONS. IN THE CHANGE,
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JAA IS REPLACING MOST OF THEIR 105MM HOWITZERS
WITH M109A1B AND M109A2 155MM SELF-PROPELLED
HOWITZERS. THE JAA IS ALSO INCREASING THE SIZE OF
THEIR ARTILLERY FIRING BATTERIES FROM FOUR TO THE
STANDARD U.S. SIX GUN CONFIGURATION. THE JAA
CURRENTLY HAS 23 M44, 40 M109 AND EIGHT M109A1B
155MM SP HOWITZERS. AS FUTURE YEAR DELIVERIES OF

THE 155MM SP HOWITZERS ARRIVE, THE OLDER M44'S
WILL BE PHASED OUT IN THE EARLY 1980'S. TWO
CURRENT FMS CASES ARE FOR
155MM SP HOW'S: URX WITH 30 AND USK WITH 36. SIX
M109A1B 155MM HOW'S HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED
UNDER FMS CASE URX. THE FINAL 24 WILL ARRIVE IN
JORDAN IN SEP 78. DELIVERIES UNDER USK WILL BE
MADE IN THE 2ND QTR FY79. A NEW FMS CASE, UWW,
IS BEING PREPARED FOR 18 M109A2 155MM HOWITZERS.

3. (C) THE JAA CURRENTLY HAVE ONLY 2,719 ROUNDS OF
WHITE PHOSPHOROUS (WP) SMOKE TO SUPPORT THE 127
155MM WEAPONS NOW IN JORDAN. NORMAL SCREENING
MISSIONS IN DESERT ENVIRONMENT EMPLOY A 60 PERCENT
HC SMOKE TO 40 PERCENT WP SMOKE TO CREATE A
LONGER LASTING SCREEN.

4. (C) MAP JORDAN CONSIDERS THE INCREASE OF WP
ROUNDS REQUESTED TO BE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERING THE
INCREASE IN 155MM WEAPONS AND THE REQUIREMENT
FOR GREATER USE OF SMOKE TO SCREEN DESERT OPERATIONS.
SUDDARTH.

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